

Checklist of Traits Associated with Giftedness

Use this checklist to better understand your child's giftedness. Check any items that *usually* or *often* apply to your child.

- 1. Enjoys or prefers to work and play independently.
- 2. Can concentrate on two or three activities at once.
- 3. Prefers the company of older children and adults.
- 4. Reads books and magazines geared for older children and adults.
- 5. Shows interest in cause-and-effect relationships.
- 6. Learns quickly and applies knowledge easily.
- 7. Shows an unusual grasp of logic.
- 8. Has an advanced vocabulary for his or her age.
- 9. Enjoys making discoveries on his or her own and solving problems in his or her own way.
- 10. Likes to play with words.
- 11. Shows uneven development. (For example: A six year old who understands and can avidly explain the role of chlorophyll in the process of photosynthesis, but struggles with getting dressed every morning and tying his shoes.)
- 12. Loves math games, playing with number concepts and figuring out how to solve math problems in unique ways.
- 13. Wants to know the reasons for rules—and the reasons behind the reasons.
- 14. Discusses or elaborates on ideas in complex, unusual ways.
- 15. Sees many possible answers to questions or solutions to problems.
- 16. Is extremely curious, asks lots of questions, and questions the answers.
- 17. Shows leadership in organizing games and activities, and in resolving disputes.
- 18. Has a long attention span for things that he or she is interested in.
- 19. Becomes so involved that he or she is not aware of anything else.
- 20. Has many unusual hobbies or interests.
- 21. Has elaborate collections and is passionate about them.
- 22. Demonstrates a vivid imagination.
- 23. Invents games, toys and other devices.
- 24. Thinks of new ways to do things.
- 25. Likes to create by drawing, painting, writing, building, experimenting, storytelling or inventing.

(continued)

Checklist of Traits Associated with Giftedness (continued)

- 26. Enjoys singing, playing an instrument, dancing or moving rhythmically, or pantomime.
- 27. Responds to music and is able to compose songs or improvise tunes and rhythms.
- 28. Sees patterns and connections that others don't see, even among things that are apparently unrelated.
- 29. Argues or debates about logic of ideas, rules or actions.
- 30. Tends to rebel against what is routine or predictable.
- 31. Has a well-developed sense of humour.
- 32. Absorbs the speech patterns and vocabulary of different people, and imitates them in stories, music, skits, comedy routines or games.
- 33. Is very active and has trouble sitting still.
- 34. Likes to discuss abstract ideas such as God, love, justice and equality.
- 35. Expresses unusual sensitivity to what is seen, heard, touched, tasted and smelled.
- 36. Shows sensitivity to the feelings of others and empathy in response to other people's troubles.
- 37. Expresses concern about world problems, such as endangered animals, racism, pollution and poverty.
- 38. Shows a willingness to follow intuitive hunches even if they can't immediately be justified.
- 39. Demonstrates high energy, focus and intensity.
- 40. Is frustrated by own imperfection and imperfection in others.
- 41. Is extra sensitive to criticism.
- 42. Shows intuitive sensitivity to spiritual values and beliefs and ponders philosophical issues.

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This checklist reflects traits in the three broad categories:

- 1–10 advanced intellectual ability
- 11–34 creative traits
- 35–42 heightened emotional and sensitivity characteristics.

Completing this checklist may give you clues as to where your child shows the greatest strengths. Typically, children who are gifted do not show strengths in all three areas.

